

Fergus Petroleum Co FSA
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*The Fergus-Petroleum County
Committee regular scheduled meeting
is the first Wednesday of each month.*

County Committee Members

Dan Boyce, Chairperson
Stuart Skinner, Vice-Chairperson
Judy Hedman, Reg Member
Jill Knerr, Reg Member
Steve Morris, Reg Member

FSA Office Personnel & Phone Extension Numbers

John Nahrgang, CED.....108
Kim Billadeau, PT.....110
Karen Boyles, FLM.....113
Vickie Baumgartner, PT.....107
Michele Gilpatrick, PT.....106
Les Melichar, PT105
Alta Pallett, PT.....109
Cheryl Tucek, CPT104
John Ahlgren, Field

Dates to Remember:

April 18 – May 16 – Conservation
Security Program Signup

May 15-July 15 – FSA State
Committee established Primary
Nesting Season for CRP

May 15-August 1 – Primary Nesting
Season for CRP contracts affected by
the National Wildlife Federations
settlement agreement with FSA

June 2 – Final loan/LDP availability
date for Corn, Dry peas, Grain
sorghum, Lentils, Mustard seed,
Safflower seed, Small chickpeas,
Soybeans, and Sunflower seed
harvested in 2007

June 15 – COC Nominations Open

Notice of Loss – filed within 15
calendar days of the natural disaster
occurrence or the date the damage to
the crop or loss of production was
apparent

July 15 – deadline to provide 2007
production for NAP APH

July 15 – 2007 NAP Application for
Payment Deadline

July 15 – Acreage report deadline

August 1 – Deadline for
restitutions



Fergus-Petroleum FSA

May 2008

Responsibilities for CRP Contract Holders

CRP contract holders have certain responsibilities for carrying out the terms and conditions of the CRP contract. Those include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Control all weeds, insects, pests and other undesirable species to the extent necessary to ensure that the establishment and maintenance of the approved cover is adequately protected and there is no adverse impact on surrounding land.
- ✓ Establish and maintain the required vegetative or water cover and other required practices.
- ✓ No activity may be conducted on CRP acres without authorization.
- ✓ Prior approval must be received from FSA before any harvesting, grazing or other commercial use of the forage may begin.
- ✓ If land with a CRP contract is sold, the new owners should notify the local county FSA office if they want to continue the contract.

If CRP land is sold and the new owner does not wish to continue the CRP contract, the previous CRP participant will be required to repay all payments received on the contract plus interest and liquidated damages. Liquidated damages are equal to 25 percent of the annual rental payment on those acres not contracted by the new owner.

NOTE: There are two primary nesting Dates

May 15 – July 15 FSA State Committee
established Primary Nesting Season for CRP

May 15 – August 1 Primary Nesting Season for
CRP contracts affected by the National Wildlife
Federations settlement agreement with FSA

Check the Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO)
for the primary nesting dates that apply to your CRP
contract

LOAN and LDP Violations

Incorrect Certification is either of the following:

- ❖ Certifying a quantity in excess of the quantity eligible for loan or LDP
- ❖ Making any fraudulent representation with respect to obtaining loans or LDPs.

Unauthorized Removal is the movement of any farm-stored loan quantity from the storage structure where the commodity was stored or structures that were designated when the loan was approved to any other storage structure whether or not the structure is located on the producer's farm without prior written authorization from the COC. Unauthorized removal is considered a violation if the producer does not maintain control of the commodity or CCC loses first lien on the collateral.

Unauthorized Disposition is the conversion of any loan quantity pledged as collateral for a farm-stored loan without prior written authorization from the COC.

Consequences of Loan and LDP Violations may be:

- ❖ Assessment of liquidated damages and other administrative actions, and shall be liable for monetary amounts as specified in the applicable regulations and terms and conditions of the applicable forms.
- ❖ Criminal prosecution under Federal Law.

CRP Maintenance Incentives

When the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) was originally announced a \$5/year maintenance rate was added to the contract to maintain the cover. In 2006, that rate was lowered to \$4/year. As of April 11, 2008 that rate has been lowered to \$2/year. The new rate does not affect any contracts previously approved and only applies to contracts approved after April 11, 2008.

Producers are required to perform management activities included in all contracts approved after May, 2003. These activities are eligible for cost-share assistance.

Please contact the office if you have questions regarding your CRP contract.

Loan & LDP Final Availability Dates

Loans and LDP's are available to eligible producers who have:

- ❖ Reported acreage of the crop for which a loan or LDP is requested.
- ❖ Complied with all other program provisions

Request for loans and LDP's shall be made on or before the final availability date. Following are the final availability dates for crops harvested in 2007 for eligible grains, oilseeds, pulse crops, wool & mohair and honey:

Commodity	Availability Date
Corn, Grain sorghum, Mustard seed, Safflower seed, Soybeans, Sunflower seed, Dry peas, Lentils and Small chickpeas	May 31, 2008
Wool/mohair for wool/mohair clipped in calendar year 2008	January 31, 2009

CRP Management Activities

Beginning with CRP Signup 26 and Continuous CRP Signup 27, all new CRP contracts were required to have a management activity included in the Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO). Management activities must be completed must be completed before the end of year 6 for 10 year contracts and before the end of year 9 for 15 year contracts.

Management activities include:

- Residue Management
- Ground Disturbing
- Interseeding Legumes
- Fabric Management
- Fertilization
- Prescribed Burn

Contact the county office for more detailed information.

COC Election Approaching

Beginning **June 15, 2008**, nominations are being accepted for candidates for County Committee (COC) positions.

Fergus and Petroleum Counties or area served by the COC is divided into five local administrative areas (LAA). Each LAA is represented by one member on the county committee. This year two LAAs will hold an election. This year the LAAs open in Fergus-Petroleum are LAA 2 currently represented by Judy Hedman and LAA 4 currently represented by Jill Knerr.

The nominee must sign the nomination form in order to be nominated as a COC member.

Nomination forms are also available at the county office or by logging on to the Montana FSA website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

Please remember that as a county committee member you are the local voice of how FSA programs are administered to meet your local community and resource needs.

Nomination forms must be submitted to the FSA county office by **August 1, 2008**. Ballots will be sent to eligible voters beginning November 3, 2008. The final day for voters to submit their voted ballots is December 1, 2008.

Measurement Service Charges

On farm measurement is charged at:

- Basic farm fee of \$30.00;
- Plus an hourly rate of \$16.00 for the first hour and \$8.00 for each additional ½ hour after the first hour. The minimum is 1 hour.

The hourly rate includes the time to travel from the FSA county office to the farm, complete the measurement service and return to the county office.

An "Initial Fee" is required at the time the measurement service is requested and the fee must be collected before the measurement service is performed. The initial fee will be the basic rate plus the hourly minimum. Once the service has been completed the actual fee will be calculated. The initial fee will be subtracted from the calculated fee and a letter will be sent informing you of the additional amount owed. If the amount is \$9.99 or less then an additional fee is not required.

Measurement Service Charges (cont.)

In-office measurements are charged at:

- a basic farm rate of \$15.00 plus a 30-minute minimum rate of \$8.00.

Bin site measurements will be calculated according to the farm number and the physical location of the bins:

- for one farm with multiple bin sites, only one FSA-409 (a written request to have acreage measured by FSA) is required;
- for multiple farms and all the grain is stored in bins at one site, only one FSA-409 is required where the bin site is physically located;
- for multiple farms with a different bin site for each farm, a separate FSA-409 is required for each farm and bin site.

2008 Acreage Reports

It will soon be time to certify your planted acres and all acreage reports need to be accurate and filed by the final reporting date of July 15, 2008. Certification is mandatory if any of the following apply:

- ◆ You receive DCP payments
- ◆ You have acres enrolled in CRP
- ◆ Loans or LDP's will be requested; including Wool, Mohair and Honey (*All cropland on the farm must be certified to be eligible for DCP and loan program benefits*).
- ◆ Acreage is covered by NAP

All acreage reports need to be filed by the final reporting date of **July 15, 2008**. Failure to report accurately may result in loss of program and price support benefits.

The map sets and certification packets will be available for your pickup on May 12th.

Due to a favorable response the past couple of years, we will again be going out to Winnett, Grass Range, Roy, Winifred, & Denton **the week of June 9 to pick up your marked maps and completed worksheets. Watch the newspaper in early June to see the dates and times that we will be in each community.**

Inside this Issue

Responsibilities for CRP
Contract Holders
Loan & LDP Violations
CRP Maintenance Rates
COC Election Approaching
CRP Maintenance Activities
Certification Packets
Measurement Services

Important Dates to Remember

May 31 – Final loan availability date for various crops
June 15 – COC nominations open
Notice of Loss – 15 calendar days of the natural disaster occurrence or the date the damage to the crop or loss of production was apparent
July 15 – Acreage report deadline
August 1 – Reconstitution Deadline

Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium

Mark your calendars for the annual Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium to be held September 30 & October 1 at the Clock Tower Inn in Billings, Montana.

A great slate of topics will be discussed such as Dispelling Agriculture Myths from the American Farm Bureau, a panel discussion from the congressional staffers, source water protection and farm-to-table. Ed Usset from the Minnesota Center for Farm Financial Management will be presenting "Grain Marketing is Simple." These are just a few of the topics, presentations, and activities that will occur during the two day event. Cost of registration is \$60 which includes meals and presentations.

The symposium will begin at 8:00 a.m. on September 30 with registration and end on October 1 at 2:00 p.m.

Continue to watch the newsletter for further details.

